

REMARKS

(1) Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 22-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 10 and 14-21 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-9 and 22-33 have been allowed, and claims 11-13, and 34 were rejected. Applicant amended Claim 34 herein, but no new matter has been added.

(2) The Office Action cited the following references:

A. U. S. Patent 6,174,824, by Michael, *et al.*, entitled *Post-Processing A Completed Semiconductor Device* (referred to as "Michael" hereinafter);

B. U. S. Patent 5,880,529, by Barrow, entitled *Silicon Metal-Pillar Conductors Under Stagger Bond Pads* (referred to as "Barrow" hereinafter); and

C. U. S. Patent 6,022,809, by Fan, entitled *Composite Shadow Ring For An Etch Chamber And Method Of Using* (referred to as "Fan" hereinafter).

(3) Claims 12-13 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Michael in view of Barrow. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Michael in view of Barrow, as applied above, and further in view of Fan. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

The cited references do not disclose, teach, suggest, or motivate a "method of forming post passivation interconnects for an integrated circuit . . . wherein at least some of the second plurality of contact pads are electrically connected to at least some of the first plurality of contact pads, wherein at least some of the second plurality of contact pads are on a different level than the first plurality of contact pads," as Claim 34 now requires. Because none of the references teach the claimed invention of Claim 34, combinations of these references cannot teach the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 34 is patentable over the cited references.

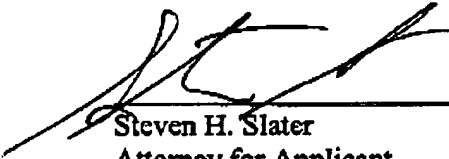
Because Claims 11-13 depend from Claim 34, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 11-13 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons stated above regarding Claim 34.

(4) Applicant makes note that Claims 1-9 and 22-33 were allowed in the Office Action. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the prior examination of now allowed claims 1-9 and 22-33.

(5) In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that the case be passed to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant at the address below. No fee is believed to be due at this time. In the event that there are any fees due herein to keep the application pending, other than an issue fee, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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